

View

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” — *John 12:21*

June 28, 2020

“Suffer the Little Children

(A SHORT VIGNETTE ON LOVE)

BY DAVID BARNES

Undoubtedly one of the most famous statements Jesus ever made was this one about children. In Matthew 19:14 the disciples were trying to keep the children away from Jesus while the parents were trying to get them to Him. The disciples went so far as to rebuke the parents. It shows how little they understood, including the relationship that Jesus sustained to everyone, even children.

Jesus knew children were the perfect example of lowliness, the characteristic a citizen of his kingdom must possess. It was a message that the disciples needed at that moment as they were trying to shoo the children away. The disciples struggled with the idea of lowliness (Matt. 20:20ff), they argued about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom (Lk. 22:24ff). They, perhaps above all others, needed these reminders (we need it no less).

The world always needs a lesson on lowliness (and love). These two certainly go hand in hand. Those lessons come in many different ways and in many different times in life. We should never fail to make the most out of the moments when those lessons arrive.

To the right is a picture of Emma when I was holding her last week. She decided that she was going to lay her face up against mine for at least seven or eight minutes straight without moving. She pressed it as firmly as she could against me so that I couldn't move. In the picture I'm leaning back trying to get a breath of air! It was the sweetest hug ever.

I have no idea why she decided to do this. It was unusual, both Becky and Ann said they had never seen a baby do just exactly that before. I felt completely special. It reminded me of how important being loved and accepted is, particularly when there are no strings attached.

Emma doesn't know who I am (not really), I can't give her anything that she's looking to receive, she's just a little 6 month old baby and I'm a 67 year old man. She just decided to give me her loving affection.

Our world would be a much better place if



people would act like Emma. I suppose I should qualify that statement. People are acting like Emma in the wrong sense. What they need to do is start acting like mature adults. That would be a huge beginning towards solving all our problems.

The point being, it would be so much better if people would respect each other and love each other not based upon what they were trying to get from the other person. To forgive, and not try to settle some grievance that happened in the distant past. If we could just act (in the proper way) like a small child our world would be a much better place.

I hope we give and receive childlike love.

Declarative Praise (A Thanksgiving Psalm)

by Keith Dickey

[Keith was given an assignment at FC in which he was required to write some psalms. This is an especially appropriate one for the season. I would give him an "A," how about you?]

O, my God;
Blessed is my God!
How can I describe his majesty;
Where can the praise begin?
For my God is great;
He is truly the greatest.
He does not ever turn,
And reject my cry.
But my prayer he hears,
And embraces in his love.
You have heard me, O God;
You have heard your child!
I once prayed to you;
I appealed to you for help.
The ink to free a loved one;
The mark to deliver my sister.
The stamp has assuredly been given,
Yes the saving seal is complete!
My sister's future is no longer unknown,
But her tomorrow is secured.
She will hear your word, O God;
She will know your grace.
We all know your saving grace, O great one;
My family knows your compassion.
All that I know I will tell of your love;
I will tell all to fear you.
Please continue to be with me Lord;
Be with my family.
For my head will face my folded hands constantly;
My knees will be driven to the ground often.
I know you will hear,
When I call for you Lord.
You have always heard;
You will always hear.

Ten Little Christians

Ten Little Christians came to church all the time;
One fell out with the preacher, then there were nine.

Nine Little Christians stayed up late;
One overslept on Sunday, then there were eight.

Eight Little Christians on their way to Heaven;
One took the low road, then there were seven.

Seven Little Christians, chirping like chicks;
One didn't like the singing, then there were six.

Six Little Christians seemed very much alive;
One took a vacation, then there were five.

Five Little Christians pulling for Heaven's shore;
One stopped to take a rest, then there were four.

Four Little Christians each as busy as a bee;
One had his feelings hurt, then there were three.

Three Little Christians couldn't decide what to do;
One couldn't have his way, then there were two.

Two Little Christians each won one more;
Now don't you see, two plus two equals four.

Four Little Christians worked early and late;
Each brought one, now there were eight.

Eight Little Christians if they double as before;
In just seven Sundays, we have one thousand twenty four.

In this jingle there is a lesson true;
You belong either to the building, or to the wrecking crew.

Author Unknown

"Some Attitudes Never Change"

From: The Stanza, Vol. 27, No. 2, Fall 2003

A newsletter prepared by the Lutheran Hymnal Project has noted that the following item was recently included in the Texas District supplement to the Lutheran Witness: "Please! NO more new hymns. What's wrong with the inspiring hymns with which we grew up? When I go to church, it's to worship God, not be distracted with learning a new hymn. Last Sunday's was particularly unnerving. While the text was good, the tune was quite unsingable and the harmonies were quite discordant."

The letter was written in 1890, and the hymn that elicited the complaint was "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."

Submitted by Don Alexander